

Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Volume 14, Number 1 Spring 2015



*Historic figures you'll meet at
Ohio Chautauqua.*

Ohio Chautauqua Comes to Akron

by Judy James, Division Manager

In June, Hardesty Park will be transformed into an exciting center of learning and fun as Akron hosts [Ohio Chautauqua 2015](#). During the week of June 23-28, our community will have the opportunity to experience the “Journey Stories” of some of history’s most compelling historic figures. All area residents are invited to Ohio Chautauqua’s iconic red-and-white striped tent under the trees of Hardesty Park. Since 1999, Ohio Humanities has brought history to life in communities throughout our state. This year, Akron is one of four Ohio communities selected to host this week-long series of events, including a live performance each evening presented by scholars-in-residence who portray historic figures.

A lively mixture of education and entertainment, Ohio Chautauqua 2015 will explore the transformative journeys taken by Titanic survivor Edith Russell, Indian captive Olive Ann Oatman, philosopher Henry David Thoreau, Forty-niner J. Goldsborough Bruff, and civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Each evening’s presentation will feature a musical performance by some of our community’s finest musical artists including Valerie and David Mayfield, Rachel Roberts, Alex Bevan, and The LeGrair Brothers. During the day, audiences are invited to Main Library to explore more aspects of each theme by attending hands-on workshops for children and adult programs presented by the scholars.

On Sunday, June 28 at 3 pm at Akron’s First United Methodist Church, Chautauqua Institution archivist Jon Schmitz will present a talk on Lewis Miller, co-founder of the Chautauqua Institution in New York. Miller was a member of the church and designed the 1871 building with architect Jacob Snyder. This “Akron Plan” church would serve as the architectural model for scores of 19th century churches throughout the country.

We hope you will join us for this highlight of Akron’s summer event offerings. For more information about these FREE programs, including a detailed schedule, please visit our [Ohio Chautauqua 2015 website](#).

Ohio Chautauqua 2015 in Akron is a partnership of the Akron-Summit County Public Library and the Summit County Historical Society, with support from the City of Akron and the Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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Lounge area at the Akron-Canton Airport, 1979.

Update: Akron Beacon Journal Photograph Collection on Summit Memory

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

Special Collections librarians continue to visit the *Akron Beacon Journal* on a regular basis to select photographs for digitization and inclusion in the [Akron Beacon Journal Photograph Collection](#) on Summit Memory. We have selected more than 4,600 photographs as of this writing. The images do not all appear on Summit Memory yet, however, as selection is just the first stage of the process.

After we select the photographs, [ScanWorks](#), an Akron-based professional document scanning service, picks them up at the Beacon, scans them and provides the Library with the digital files. Then, a contract employee hired specifically for this project enters information on each photograph into the Summit Memory database and publishes it online. We've published more than 1,200 photographs on Summit Memory at this point.



*"Bob Hope Girls" at Barberton's
Cherry Blossom Festival, 1970.*

The Beacon's photograph collection is arranged alphabetically by subject, and that is how we are going through it to select photographs. Among the photographs you'll find on Summit Memory so far are those featuring airdocks, airports, airships, airviews (aerial photographs), Akron Art Institute, Akron Beacon Journal, Akron Civic Theater, Akron University, Akron-Summit County Public Library, bootlegging and bridges.

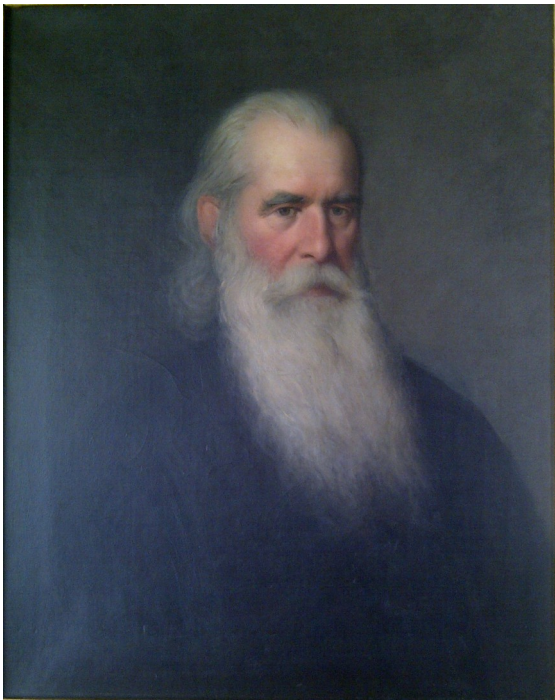
Users may browse the 1,200+ photographs using the link to the collection above. To search within this particular Summit Memory collection, click the link to the collection above, click on the "Advanced Search" link on the top center of the page, then click the "Add another field" link to add a box into which you may enter search terms. New photographs will be published regularly, so be sure to check back often.



Construction of the Y-Bridge, 1980.

*"History, it is easily perceived, is a
picture-gallery containing a host of copies
and very few originals."*

-Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime



Colonel Simon Perkins. Photo courtesy of the Summit County Historical Society of Akron, Ohio.

Celebrating the Centeseptequinary of Summit County

*by Dave Lieberth, Board Chair, Summit County Historical Society
This article was originally prepared for the Summit County Council and is published with permission.*

Summit County was created amidst the turmoil of competition between cities and among rival counties, with its godfather, Colonel Simon Perkins using his personal wealth and prestige to champion the county that newspapers would call the “Infant Hercules.”

The first government of what is now Summit County dates to May 30, 1801, when Connecticut relinquished its claims to the Western Reserve and the land became part of the Northwest Territory attached to Trumbull County. In 1807, the territory became part of the newly-created Portage County with Ravenna as its seat. Here in July 1825, Joshua Henshaw filed his survey of the properties of General Simon Perkins and Paul Williams that became the new city of Akron.

With the opening of the Ohio & Erie Canal in 1827 and the steady growth of Akron, business and professional men had grown weary of the twenty-mile trip to Ravenna—a day’s journey—to pay taxes and file deeds. By 1833, a new movement had matured that sought to create a new county consisting of the townships that generally bordered the canal lands. On December 14 of that year, Dr. Eliakim Crosby published a notice that he would donate \$2,000 for public buildings in Akron if a new county was declared. But the property owners and business owners in Cuyahoga Falls felt that any new county seat should rightfully be theirs. Joshua Stow, Ogden Wetmore and Henry Newberry quickly published their own notice, pledging \$5,000 advocating Cuyahoga Falls for the county seat. Despite intense local debate, six sessions of the Ohio General Assembly would ignore the pleadings of the people of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls.

In 1839, Col. Simon Perkins, a prominent Whig, became part of an uncharacteristic alliance with Democrats in Portage County to be elected the county’s state senator for a two year term on a platform that they would advocate for the new county. In December, Col. Perkins, Rufus Spalding of Ravenna, and Ephraim Hubbard of Deerfield introduced legislation creating a new “Summit County.” There was tremendous opposition from Portage County, which stood to lose ten of its townships: Twinsburg, Northfield, Boston, Hudson, Stow, Northampton, Portage, Tallmadge, Springfield and Coventry. Medina County fought hard against the loss of four of their townships: Richfield, Bath, Copley, and Norton. Most derisive were legislators from Stark County, who wanted to hold on to Franklin and Green Townships, referring to the Yankee lands of the Western Reserve as “Cheesedom.” While the northern townships shared the same Western Reserve New England heritage, the two southern townships had been settled by “Dutchmen” with strong Germanic roots.

Because Col. Perkins was able to liberally lubricate the wheels of the statehouse with his family’s personal wealth and monies contributed by Akron businessmen, the bill moved quickly through the legislature despite procedural barriers thrust into the process by Medina, Portage and Stark legislators. On February 6, 1840, the bill passed the House 34-31; on February 28, it was adopted by the Senate 19-15, and on March 3, the legislation creating the new County of Summit was signed into law.

News of the General Assembly's approval on Friday the 28th took four days by stagecoach to reach Akron on Monday, March 2 (it was leap year.) To notify residents of the city and all the outlying townships, church bells rang, cannons were fired, and bonfires burned into the night, proclaiming the birth of the new county in a burst of what Samuel Lane called "unrestrained jollity if not absolute revelry." The businessmen who had lobbied so hard for the action selected Dr. Jedediah Commins to be the "President of the Day" for a full-throated celebration of victory to be held on Wednesday, March 4 in Akron.

The day began with a thirteen-gun salute at sunrise from a grove on Church Street where General Simon Perkins had pledged land on a rise above the city for the new courthouse. Men who were members of various militias put on their uniforms and joined several brass bands in a procession that eventually numbered several thousand. There was a large cortege of ladies carrying parasols, and the parades ended at what today is Main and Market streets with an "abundant and palatable feast." There were thirteen regular toasts and fourteen volunteer toasts throughout the evening's ceremonies, concluding with a social dance.

The legislation creating the new county provided for elections to be held on the first Monday in April. Three commissioners were chosen: John Hoy of Franklin, Jonathan Starr of Copley, and Augustus Foot of Twinsburg. They met for the first time in Akron at the tavern at Main and Exchange on April 9, 1840, and selected a building owned by Chauncey and Hiram Payne at Howard and Market for their temporary quarters, including a jail and a courtroom.

One of their first orders of business was to select a site for the permanent county seat. General Perkins had donated a magnificent parcel at the peak of Church Street, located in "the Gore" between the two competing towns of North Akron (Cascade) and South Akron. It was said to be the highest county seat in the state, from which one could see all of Summit County's townships.

But Cuyahoga Falls was having none of it. When Col. Perkins' term as State Senator expired, he was succeeded by Elisha Sill of Cuyahoga Falls, who quickly moved to invalidate the commissioners' choice of Akron as the likely county seat. For a while, county officials had offices in both Akron and Cuyahoga Falls. To resolve the furious debate, Col. Perkins stood for election to the Ohio House in 1841, and again was successful getting his way in Columbus by having the legislature put the issue of where to place the seat of Summit County government to a vote of the people.

On April 5, 1842, a county-wide referendum resulted in voters selecting Akron by a vote of 2,978 to 1,384, with a third choice—the so-called "Summit City" that was yet to be built near Glenwood Avenue—receiving only 101 votes. There were great difficulties in constructing the new courthouse, which was finally dedicated on November 2, 1843. A last-minute visitor delivered the dedicatory address: the former president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, who was on his way to Cincinnati via stagecoach and the Ohio & Erie Canal.



*The Summit County courthouse about 1900. It was demolished in 1905 when construction of the present courthouse began.
From the General Photograph Collection.*



REV. JOHN B. BROUN, DD.

Father John Broun had a substantial impact on Akron's German Catholic community in the late nineteenth century. From Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County.

Getting to Know...Rev. John Broun

by Michael Elliott, Public Service Assistant (ret.)

John Baptiste Broun, longtime pastor of St. Bernard's Catholic church, was born March 2, 1834 in Rening, a village in the province of Lorraine, France. He came to America with his family in April 1847 on the ship *Caspian*. They settled in Monroe, Michigan, where his father labored as a farmer. Through his teenage years he stayed at home and assisted his father. But Broun wanted something more. After consulting with his parents and receiving their blessing, he decided to enter the priesthood.

Broun graduated from St. Thomas College near Bardstown, Kentucky in 1859 and was ordained a priest in the summer of 1863. His first charge was in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, encompassing a territory that stretched for more than fifty-five miles. His strong physical condition as well as his ability to speak multiple languages suited him for the position. All of the visits he made to the families in his care had to be made either by horseback or on foot. Many of those under his guidance were Native Americans, most of whom could understand French but could not speak English. Broun could speak French, German, and English fluently.

During this time in Akron, German-speaking Catholics established their own parish apart from the English-speaking St. Vincent's. The cornerstone for the new church, christened St. Bernard's, was put into place in July 1862. The building, which stood on the current site of Akron's STEM middle school, was completed and occupied the following January. Broun came to Akron and was appointed Pastor of St. Bernard's on July 19, 1866. He became a U.S. citizen in 1872, but retained a worldly outlook. For several decades, Broun gave all of his sermons in German to accommodate the majority of his parishioners. He also travelled extensively, returning to his birthplace many times and visiting the Holy Land twice.

Father Broun's brusque manner and forceful personality rubbed many the wrong way. Over the years, his bluntness caused several parishioners to leave St. Bernard's. But he was the driving force behind much of the church's expansion, including new quarters for the staff and the parish school, which opened in 1888. Early in his tenure he purchased the property for the church cemetery. He also presided over the planning and construction of the present church building. The recently demolished school closed in 1977 after eighty-nine years of service. The current St. Bernard's church, the profile of which is so familiar to generations of area residents, will pass its 100th anniversary later this year.

Father Broun's most fervent desire was to celebrate his golden jubilee in 1916 as Pastor of St. Bernard's, but it was not to be. He died July 10, 1915 in the church rectory. His tenure of forty-nine years left a formidable legacy. In addition to his skills as a planner and administrator, he performed over 5,700 baptisms, presided over some 2,200 weddings, and is thought to have administered last rites to as many as 2,300 persons.

His passing demonstrated just how much he was admired and respected by the community. The interior of the church was lavishly draped in black and purple



*St. Bernard's School.
From The Artwork of
Akron, 1898, Summit
Memory.*



shrouding for the funeral. Outside, an estimated 10,000 mourners including hundreds of children who had been given the day off from school jammed the street, unable to gain entrance for the funeral service. As the casket was placed in the hearse for the short drive to the cemetery, the already subdued crowd became silent and bowed their heads. His remains were interred in the St. Bernard's cemetery on Akron's near west side.

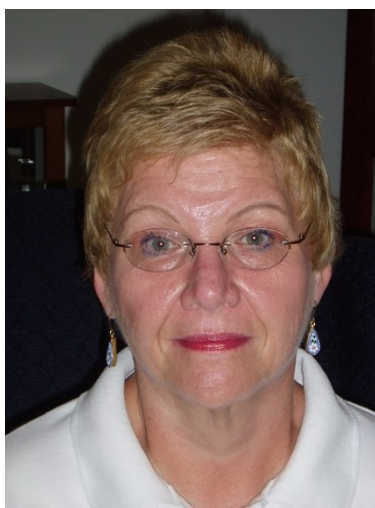
A postcard showing the interior of St. Bernard's Church in 1913. From the Ruth Wright Clinefelter Postcard Collection, Summit Memory.

German Genealogy Programs at Main Library

German ancestry is one of the most commonly researched topics for American genealogists. This year, Special Collections is focusing on programs to help researchers of German descent. We hope you will join us for these FREE programs. To register, please contact the Special Collections Division at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Beginning German Genealogy will cover how to collect information on your family, including what to ask, where to look for confirmation, and how to record the information. Naming practices and the difference between primary and secondary sources will also be reviewed. The focus will be on German genealogy, but the basic concepts apply to all ethnic families.

The 19th Century German Traveler follows an immigrant's journey including how he decides to leave Germany, what he takes with him, and what happens on his voyage to America.



Saturday, May 2:
German Genealogy with Nancy Ottman
10:30 am – 12:45 pm

Appearing courtesy of the [Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America](#) (PalAm), Nancy has been a longtime member of PalAm and has been researching for over twenty years. She has presented at various

genealogy organizations and societies across Ohio, including an appearance at Historic Zoar Village last November. An avid traveler, she recently toured Germany gathering information on tombstone symbolism and burial practices.

Nancy will present two lectures ideal for family historians just starting to explore their German roots.



Saturday, August 22:
Discovering Your German Ancestors
9:30 am – 4:30 pm

In collaboration with the [Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society](#), Special Collections will present genealogist James Beidler and *Discovering Your German Ancestors*. This all-day program will include

sessions on German migration, church records, online research, tips for understanding the German language, and how to discover your ancestor's home village. For detailed session descriptions, visit our [Classes and Events](#) page.



Map of the State of New York, 1833. From American Memory, Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

New York Online Resources

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

Many Ohio residents have New York ancestors, and there are numerous online resources for genealogists researching this state.

The Italian Genealogical Group and German Genealogy Group have several useful tools for researching vital records for New York City. Vital records for the city are separate from the rest of the state. The [NYC Death Index](#) currently includes over two million entries for The Bronx, Kings County, Manhattan, Queens and Richmond County with dates ranging from 1862 through 1948. The [New York City Birth Index](#) has over two million listings for various boroughs from 1878 to 1909. Once the desired record is determined, click on the “documents & forms” button to be linked to the record request form. Other databases on the

site include the [Bride Index](#), [Groom Index](#), marriage index for [Nassau and Suffolk Counties](#), [Alien Statements](#) for New York City, New York State, New Jersey, the Virgin Islands, and several other databases. An unusual index is the [Fresh Pond Crematory Interment Index](#). It contains over 215,000 names for cremations that took place there as well as over 4,000 people cremated elsewhere but whose cremains are in niches at Fresh Pond.

The [Genealogical Research Death Index](#) of the New York State Department of Health includes New York deaths (excluding New York City) for 1957-1964. The database provides filtering options to narrow searches. Residence locations are identified by codes, which are not defined on the site, but may be found in the New York Department of Health’s [New York State Gazetteer](#). Researchers may then follow links for [information on ordering](#) vital records.

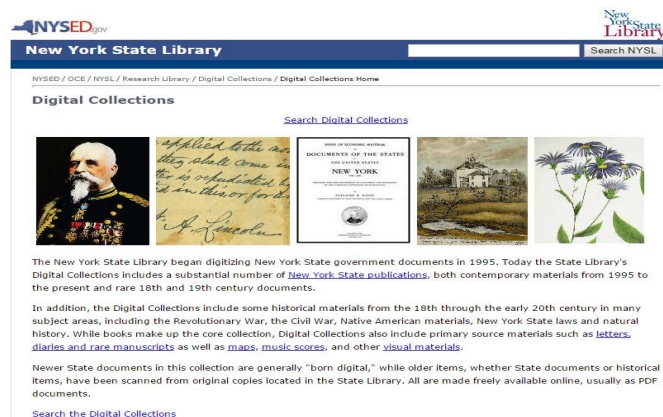
With the Port of New York being the main entry for many early immigrants, [Castle Garden](#) and [Ellis Island](#) passenger lists cannot be missed when researching immigrant ancestors. The German Genealogy Group provides databases such as [Naturalization Indexes for Greater New York](#), [Bavaria and Pfalz Emigration Database](#), and other online indexes. The [German Enemy Aliens Database](#) indexes names and addresses of all German males in New York City who were not citizens. The names were published in *The Herald* newspaper between December 4 and December 9, 1917.

The [New York State Civil War Soldiers Database](#) of the New York State Archives includes over 360,000 men who served in New York State Volunteer and the United States Sharpshooter units and the state's regiments of United States Colored Troops. It does not include those who served in the U.S. Army (regulars), U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, Veteran Reserve Corps, or New York State Militia (National Guard) units that were temporarily mustered into federal service during the Civil War. There is no extracted information from records, but researchers are linked to ordering information. The Archives’ [Universal Name Indexes](#) allow for searching across several indexes at once or individually. These indexes aid in accessing records relating to Revolutionary War veterans as well as land records. There is also an index to [Attica Correctional Facility Inmate Case Files](#). The many [digital collections](#) of the New York State Archives are organized by topic.

Be sure to check the New York Public Library, which has over 800,000 digitized items within its numerous [digital collections](#). Collections range from portraits and New York City streetscapes to photos relating to the

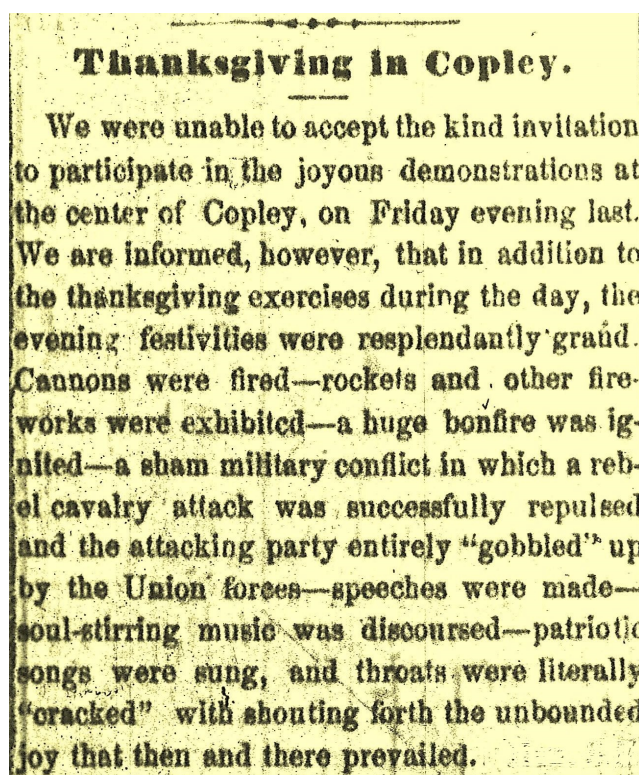
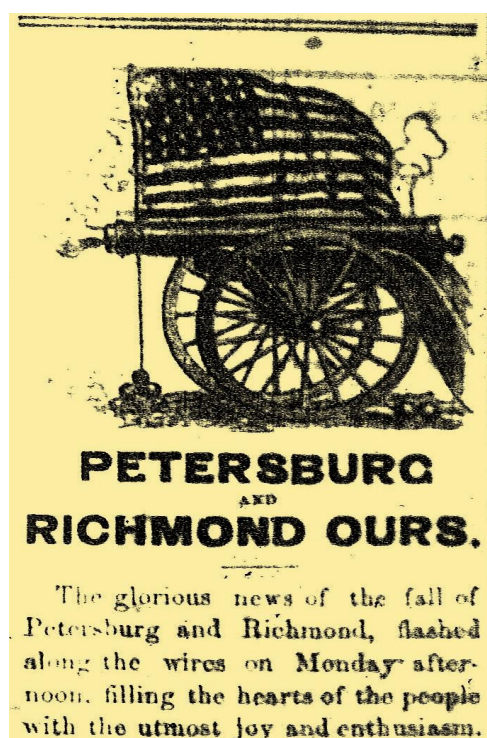
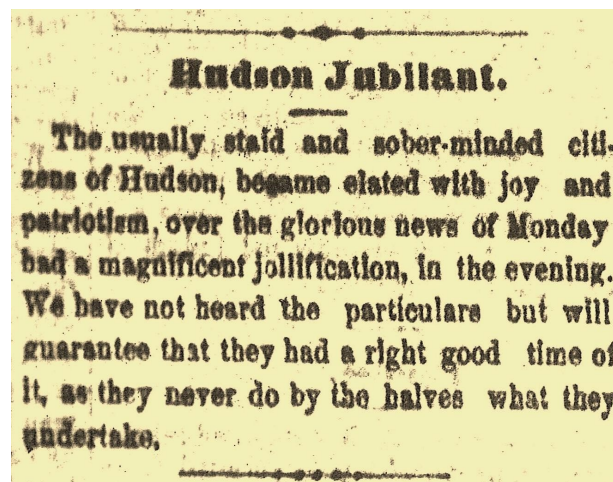
performing and visual arts. There are over 2,000 maps, including Manhattan and Brooklyn fire insurance maps (Sanborn Maps) from the 1850s-1860s, within the collection of [Early New York City Real Estate Atlases](#). A [list of the atlases](#) in the collection is provided.

[FamilySearch](#) has indexes and images for New York vital records, immigration, and census records. Don't miss the [New York State Library](#), which has digitized historical documents such as diaries, maps, music scores, and rare manuscripts on its website.



Bits & Bygones: Summit County at the End of the Civil War

As the Civil War came to a close 150 years ago this April, the *Summit County Beacon* was full of official bulletins from the War Department, dispatches from various military headquarters, and letters sent by local soldiers. One anonymous writer with the 188th OVI penned a missive from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on March 17. Informing the paper that the unit was almost entirely from Summit County, he proudly stated that “the solider stock from old Summit has not yet degenerated.” The dramatic events of that spring culminating in Lee’s surrender were faithfully recorded, and Summit County’s response echoes down to us today.





*Advertisement for
Iacomini's, Akron Beacon
Journal, May 21, 1964.*

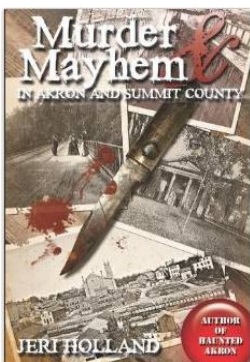
Do You Have Akron Restaurant Memorabilia to Share?

The Garden Grill, Sanginiti's, Kaase's, Marcel's, and more. Although long gone from Akron's restaurant scene, the names of these beloved dining establishments evoke nostalgia from those of us who remember them. To honor these local businesses and keep their memory alive, Special Collections has partnered with local historian Sharon Myers to document the history of the "golden age" (1930-1975) of Summit County restaurants. The daughter of Charles Moreland, owner of Marcel's, Sharon has researched the history of nearly 100 of our favorite restaurants and has created a small collection of memorabilia ranging from matchbook covers to ashtrays to photographs, all of which will form the Summit County Restaurant Collection in Special Collections. She has met with several former owners and their families, many who have generously permitted us to scan their precious photographs and menus.

All of this hard work will culminate in a booklet created by Sharon, as well as a fall 2015 display celebrating this important piece of our community's cultural heritage. In the meantime, we are still seeking more for our Summit County restaurant collection. Do you have anything you can share with us? If so, we would love to hear from you. Although donations are happily accepted, we are just as happy to borrow your items long enough to scan them. Usually we can do this the same day. For more information, contact Special Collections at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org, or Sharon Myers at 330-794-5099 or armshome@aol.com.

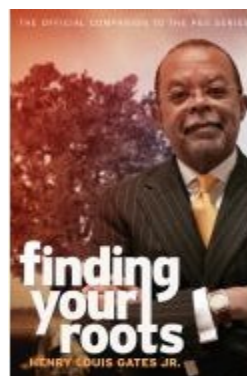
New Books

Special Collections is busy adding new books to our collection, including these three titles. Copies are available for checkout. For more, see the [New Books](#) page on our website.



Murder & Mayhem in Akron and Summit County

In Jeri Holland's new book about the darker side of life and death in our neck of the woods, you will find a chronicle of the not-so-nice people and catastrophes that have befallen those of us who call Akron and Summit County home.



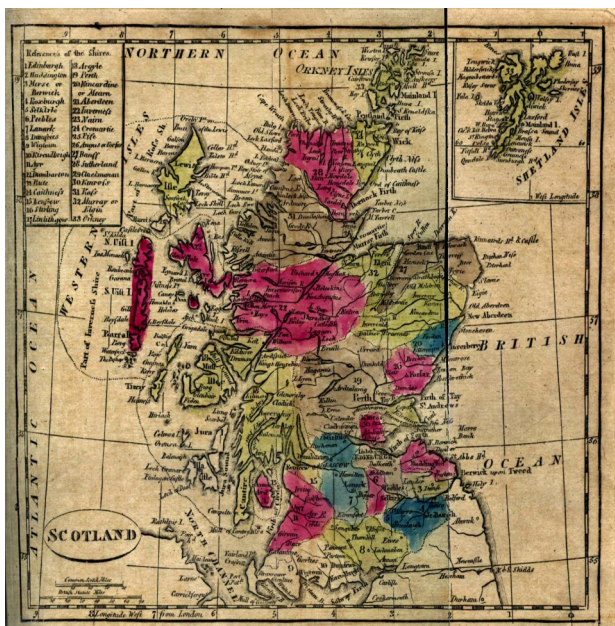
Finding Your Roots: The Official Companion to the PBS Series

In-depth stories from Henry Louis Gates' popular TV show, featuring the personal and genealogical histories of well-known actors, politicians and other public figures.



Polish Roots: Korzenie Polskie

Rosemary A. Chorzempa's helpful manual, first published in 1993, has received a long-awaited update with tips for online Polish genealogy research.



Map of Scotland, 1808. From the Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.

New Class: Researching Your Immigrant Ancestors Before 1820

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

Having trouble researching your immigrant ancestors? You're not alone. One of the most difficult tasks in genealogy is finding these elusive forebears on a passenger list and tracing them back not just to a particular country in Europe, but to a specific region or village. The further back in time, the more difficult it can get. Records from the late nineteenth century onward contain increasingly detailed information, making it easier to identify a person on a naturalization record, passenger list, or in foreign records. But when dealing with earlier immigrants, easy answers don't always exist.

Finding evidence of an ancestor's voyage and making connections to the Old World family often requires detailed research using traditional and more advanced methods than simple database searching. It can take a solid understanding of history and historical geography, familiarity with standard

published sources, and a willingness to search for obscure records. It's usually necessary to study extended family groups and even people who are not family members, but associated with the family in some other manner. Since early records are so limited, often the only way we can identify and understand our ancestors is within the context of the people and historical events surrounding them.

Because the sources used for immigrant research vary depending on the time period, Special Collections is in the process of reworking our former class *Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors* into three separate classes focused on different historical eras. In this way, we can more fully explore the approaches needed for this complex research. Our first class in the series, *Researching Your Immigrant Ancestors Before 1820*, discusses common sources and techniques used to study this very early era. The first session of this class will be held on Saturday, April 25, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in Meeting Room 2AB at Main Library. To register, please contact us at 330-643-9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

My Cousin, Richard Nixon

by Jane Gramlich, Librarian

Many people have a great deal of interest in knowing if they're related to anyone famous. The question we encounter at our reference desk usually goes something like this: "Grandma always said we're related to Buffalo Bill, and I just want to find out if it's true." The media often reports on how various well-known folks are connected to each other, and the recent spate of genealogy television shows pumps up the hype with glee. Some might respond with surprise or disbelief, but seasoned genealogists simply nod



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A. J. Jacobs' impressive goal is to show the world how we're all related.

*At this meeting Hugh Elly and Elizabeth Blackford
Declared their Intention of marriage with each other
it being the first time therefore the meeting appoints
Shelby Smith and Mary Burgess to make Inquiry into
the said Elizabeth Blackford's Clearness in Respect of
marriage and make Report there of to next meeting
At this meeting Thomas Vickers and Rebecca Dillon
Declared their Intention of marriage with each other
it being the first time therefore the meeting appoints
Mary Childs and Elpher Brown to make Inquiry into
the said Rebecca Dillon's Clearness in Respect of
marriage and make Report there of to next meeting
Concluded*

The marriage intention of Thomas Vickers and Rebecca Dillon at Buckingham Monthly Meeting, 1746. Ancestry Library Edition, from originals at the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College.

and smile. Yes, we're all related. Author and journalist [A. J. Jacobs](#), with the support of high-profile organizations and individuals such as FamilySearch and Henry Louis Gates Jr., has made it a goal to prove just that by assembling the world's largest family tree and hosting the [Global Family Reunion](#) on June 6 in New York City.

No one in my family so much as hinted at a presidential connection. I never went looking, either, and stumbled across it quite by accident. One popular claim is that if you can trace your family back to colonial America, you're likely related to a vast number of Americans both living and deceased, including celebrities, sports figures, and probably several presidents. You name it—whatever your preferred type of fame (or infamy), there's a cousin out there that fits the bill.

Not surprisingly, then, my connection with Richard Nixon is through our common Quaker ancestry extending back into the 18th century. Among the documents in the [Nixon Presidential Library and Museum](#) is a family lineage prepared by genealogist Raymond Martin Bell. It's digitized and easily available online through the library's website. It

wasn't too hard to discover, thanks to the power of Google...and the library. Apparently, Nixon and I share a set of ancestors named Thomas Vickers and Rebecca Dillon, who lived in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in the mid-1700s. One of their sons produced Nixon's line; the records indicate mine came from their youngest daughter Mercy. If Bell's research is accurate and mine is too, then Nixon is one of my cousins. Fifth cousin twice removed, to be exact.

My mother seemed to hijack the television during the Watergate hearings. Clueless about these mysteriously grim events, I pouted vigorously because I couldn't watch *Sesame Street*. What would Mom have said if she'd known her husband and daughter could have a genealogical connection to this man who was rapidly falling from grace? The sheer randomness of it makes my brain ache. But there's no reason to boggle our minds. These connections are extremely common; they are the warp and weft of who we are. Bell's report notes that "a conservative estimate is that over two million Americans are 'cousins' of President Nixon, if one goes out to fifth cousins." Well, that sounds familiar. By that calculation, there must be several million cousins of all our presidents, at all generations and levels of removal. They just don't know it.

I've made breezy claims to be nonchalant about any famous figure that might be lurking in my extended family tree. It's an amusing diversion, but not nearly as engrossing as the everyday ancestors I'm doggedly pursuing. But I have been tested and the results are in. What poetic justice that the first and possibly only famous connection I can make turned out to be Nixon. Admittedly, my first reaction was a sense of sheepish disappointment. *Really? Richard Nixon? You've got to be kidding!* Why couldn't I be some kind of cousin some number of times removed to Lincoln, or Kennedy, or the Roosevelts? Heck, I'd even take Millard Fillmore! But maybe I am that cousin. Maybe you are, too. If we go back far enough, we definitely are, so it's all good. There's no cover-up here. I'm a genealogist. I am not a crook.

1st Hearing: 'Everybody Bored Stiff'

Response to the first Watergate hearing.

Akron Beacon Journal, May 10, 1974.

Special Collections Main Library Class Schedule

The Special Collections Division offers several recurring genealogy classes to help you with your family research. All classes are free of charge and open to the general public. **Please register by calling 330-643-9030 or send an email to speccollections@akronlibrary.org.** Classes are also held at branches. Current branch class schedules are posted on the Special Collections [website](#).



Branching Out: U.S. Vital Records and Obituaries

This class focuses on the types of genealogical information and sources researchers encounter, what to expect when working with United States vital (birth, marriage and death) records and obituaries and basic search strategies

for finding these records. Because this class uses electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. Saturday, March 28, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Main Library, Meeting Room 2AB

Finding Your Family in the U.S. Census

United States census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us to learn more about using these valuable records for your family research and how to effectively search the census using library databases. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.

Saturday, April 11, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Main Library, Computer Lab 2



Researching Your Immigrant Ancestors Before 1820

Tracing ancestors before 1820 can be extremely difficult due to a lack of documentation and limited accessibility of surviving records. Focusing on European immigrants to the eastern seaboard, this class is an overview of strategies and sources commonly used in researching early immigrants. Please note: This class is geared toward genealogists with intermediate research skills.

Saturday, April 25, 2015, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Main Library, Meeting Room 2AB



Internet Genealogy

There are an overwhelming number of websites for genealogy research. This class will provide tips for locating online resources for family history research and allow participants some class time to explore websites. The focus will be on finding free online genealogy resources and brief introductions to the library's genealogy databases. This class does not cover Ancestry Library Edition as there is a separate class for this resource. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.

Saturday, May 16, 10:30 – 12:30 pm, Main Library, Computer Lab 2



Identifying Your Family Photographs

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but unlocking the stories of unidentified photographs requires some sleuthing. This class includes tips and techniques for identifying historic photographs. Learn to read clues, such as the type of photograph, clothing and hairstyles, and even whether or not subjects are smiling, to reveal the stories behind every photograph. The class will also take a look at how genealogy databases and local history resources can be used to identify your family photographs.

Saturday, June 6, 2015, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Main Library, Meeting Room 2AB



Getting Started in African American Genealogy

Do you want to trace your African American family tree? Not sure how or where to begin? The Special Collections Division presents a two-hour class for genealogy beginners who have a specific interest in African American ancestral research. You'll learn genealogy research methods, tips and tools for getting organized, common sources used by genealogists, resources specific to African Americans, and challenges in researching African American ancestors.

Saturday, June 20, 2015, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Main Library, Meeting Room 2AB

Civil War Commemorative Events

From now through 2015, Summit County will commemorate the 150 anniversary of Ohio's involvement in the Civil War. For more information about events here and throughout the state, visit [Ohio Civil War 150](#).

Sultana Disaster

Presented by Paul Huff
Peninsula Valley Historic and Education Foundation Civil War Lecture Series
April 23, 7 pm
GAR Hall
1785 Main St., Peninsula

Mr. Lincoln's Camera Man

Presented by Mark Holbrook
Peninsula Valley Historic and Education Foundation Civil War Lecture Series
May 28, 7 pm
GAR Hall
1785 Main St., Peninsula



Summit County OGS Events

For more information, see <http://summitogs.org>.

Prepare for Your Research Trips

(Chapter Meeting)
Presented by Judy Davis, chapter member
March 21, 1:30 pm—3:30 pm
Main Library

Wills, Old and New

(Chapter Meeting)
Presented by Mary Plazo, Special Collections librarian
April 18, 1:30 pm—3:30 pm
Tallmadge Branch Library

Cemetery Invasion

(Chapter Meeting)
Saturday, June 20
Location and time to be determined
The chapter will meet at a cemetery chosen by Cemetery Chair Kelly McKnight and read the stones. Once the cemetery is completely read, the information will be published.





War of 1812 Commemorative Events

Although 2012 marked the 200th anniversary of the commencement of the War of 1812, the war did not end until 1815. Communities throughout Ohio continue to commemorate this conflict with ceremonies and remembrances. For more information about events taking place in our state, visit the [Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission](#). For more information about local events and projects, visit the [William Wetmore Chapter Daughters of 1812](#).

War of 1812 & the Battle of Lake Erie

Presented by Sharon Myers, William Wetmore Chapter, Daughters of 1812

April 24, 6 pm

Mensa Meeting at the New Era Restaurant

10 Massillon Rd., Akron

For reservations, call 330-928-2735

Ohio's Role in the War of 1812

Presented by Sharon Myers, William Wetmore Chapter, Daughters of 1812

May 3, 2:30 PM

Jackson Township Bicentennial at Jackson High School

7600 Fulton Dr. NW, Massillon



We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

William Beck for photographs and materials related to the Mahan Family.

Cynthia Berry for genealogical books and materials from the estate of Delores Jean Mooney-Bartlett.

Maxine A. Browne for six books of poetry by Maxine A. Browne.

Sylvia Gamble for commemorative inaugural ticket for opening night of the Akron Aeros, April 10, 1997.

Martha MacLachlan for two volumes of *Summit Topics*, 1985-1992.

Charlie Morris for *Just a Regular Guy* by Charlie Morris.

Sharon Myers for various photographs and materials related to the history of Akron's restaurants.

Ohio Society Dames of the Court of Honor for *Revolutionary Patriots of Anne Arundel County, Maryland; Land Grants in Anne Arundel County; Maryland, Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans* in honor of Mrs. Hugh (Catherine) Macey and Mrs. Albert (Joan) Trefts.

Gloria Reich for compiled articles (1968-2002) written by Gloria Reich for the *Akron Jewish News*.

Gerald Woodling for four genealogy books.

Summit County Chapter Ohio Genealogical Society in memory of deceased chapter members:

Medina County Ohio Gleanings

Years Ago Now: Medina County (Ohio) Gazette, 1854-1895

In memory of Ann Noyes Alexander.

A Pioneer Perspective of Early Medina

Medina County, Ohio Civil War Veterans

In memory of Clair B. Alexander.

A Reminiscence of Medina County, Ohio

Medina County Gazette Happenings: Lafayette Township, Medina County, Ohio, 1878-1898

In memory of Violet Mae Barden (Charter Member).

Medina County Gazette Newspaper Abstracts, 1854-1898

In memory of Ima Gene Boyd.

Medina County Gazette Happenings: Lafayette Township, Medina County, Ohio, 1899

Pioneer Folks...Medina County Gazette

In memory of Raymond H. Gorbach.

Recollections of Medina Characters, Medina, Ohio, May 3, 1874-June 26, 1908

In memory of Harry Liggett.

Early Twentieth Century Chatham

Local Happenings of Chippewa Lake: Correspondence to Medina County, Ohio Gazette, Jan. 1892-Dec.1893

In memory of Delores Jean Mooney-Bartlett.

Local Chips and Splinters: Medina County, Ohio Gazette 1886-1888

In memory of Carol Elizabeth Ramey.

Event-Full: Chippewa Lake Correspondence to Medina County, Ohio Gazette, Jan-Dec 1900

Local Chips and Splinters: Medina County Gazette 1889.

In memory of Ruth E. Renton (Lifetime Member).

Letters to My Wife: A Civil War Diary from the Western Front

In memory of Kathryn Sain.

Life and Times in Brunswick, Ohio

In memory of Phyllis M. Young.



An advertisement for a performance of the Sparks Circus at the Barberton Ball Park. Barberton News, May 16, 1919.

The Akron-Summit County Public Library
Special Collections Division
is located on the third floor
of the Main Library.

Special Collections
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High St.
Akron, Ohio 44326

330-643-9030

email:
speccollections@akronlibrary.org

website:
<http://sc.akronlibrary.org>



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